

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /061 W
-----113179 301846Z /46

P R 301804Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7736
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, YE. YS
SUBJECT: FCO ON SITUATION IN THE YEMENS

REF: LONDON 10298

1. SOUTH YEMENI EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED FCO WITH A COPY
OF THE "STATEMENT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PDRY,"
PARALLELING THE EXPLANATION GIVEN TO THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS IN ADEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTIE (LONDON 10221).
FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT QUOTES:

BEGIN QUOTE: BROTHER CITIZENS, HERE IS THE STATEMENT
ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNIFIED
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION NATIONAL FRONT:

MASSES OF OUR GREAT YEMENI PEOPLE, THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE UNIFIED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION
NATIONAL FRONT HELD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON THE
EVENING OF 25TH JUNE TO DISCUSS AND STUDY THE SITUA-

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TION AND THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE
NORTH OF THE HOMELAND. SALIM RUBAYYA ALI REFUSED
TO ATTEND THIS EXTRAORDINARY MEETING DESPITE ALL THE
EFFORTS EXERTED BY THE POLITICAL BUREAU TO PERSUADE
HIM TO DO SO IN ORDER TO AVOID, BY HIS ATTENDANCE,
FURTHER SACRIFICES BY OUR REVOLUTION AND PEOPLE. HE
WAS ONLY WILLING TO SEND HIS RESIGNATION TO THE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHEN HE FELT THAT IT WOULD TAKE HIM TO TASK FOR HIS INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES AND BEHAVIOUR, WHICH UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES REFLECT THE POLICY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION NATIONAL FRONT OR THE POLICY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AND ITS STANDS.

THESE INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES VIOLATE NOT ONLY COLLECTIVE, CENTRALIZED AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP BUT ALSO VIOLATE THE SIMPLEST PRINCIPLES WELL KNOWN TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE MASSES OF OUR YEMENI PEOPLE. MASSES OF OUR STRUGGLING PEOPLE, AFTER DISCUSSING AND APPROVING THE RESOLUTION, DIVESTING HIM OF ALL HIS PARTY AND OFFICIAL POSTS, AND RATIFYING SEVERAL MEASURES RESULTING THEREFROM, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY SALIM RUBAVYA ALI'S ATTEMPT AT A COUP D'ETAT, WHICH HE BEGAN BY SHELLING THE MEETING HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ITS VICINITY. THIS PROMOTED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE-WHICH IS THE ONE WHICH ALWAYS RAISES THE RIFLE-TO ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS IMMEDIATELY TO CONTROL THE SITUATION AND FOIL THE REACTIONARY AND CONSPIRATORIAL COUP ATTEMPT, WHICH VIOLATES ALL THE PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZED LEGITIMACY, COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP, AND THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR
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REVOLUTION AND OUR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

2. AN APPENDIX TO THIS STATEMENT ADDS THAT "AFTER INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES ON OUR PEOPLE, SALIM RUBAYYA ALI, AND WITH HIM JAIM SALIH AND ALI SALIM LA'WAR, HAVE SURRENDERED THEMSELVES. A SPECIAL COURT WAS FORMED TO TRY THIS DEVIATE GROUP WHICH COMMITTED THE MOST TERRIBLE CRIMES AOAINST THE PEOPLE" ETC. "THE COURT SENTENCED THEM TO DEATH BY FIRING SQUAD. THIS SENTENCE WAS CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL."

3. IN DISCUSSING WHAT HAPPENED WITH FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPT, EMBOFF NOTED CONTINUING PRESS REPORTS THAT ISMAIL HAD BEEN WOUNDED OR KILLED IN THE FIGHTING. AS OF JUNE 30, FCO UNDERSTANDS FROM REPORTING FROM BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADEN THAT ISMAIL HAS NOT APPEARED PUBLICLY SINCE THE FIGHTING; HOWEVER,
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IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WISHES TO AVOID PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE TIME BEING.

4. ACCORDING TO FCO SOURCE, BRITISH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS HERE ARE CONCLUDING THAT THE SOVIET UNION MAY WELL HAVE BEEN BEHIND LAST WEEKEND'S DEVELOPMENTS. WITH THEIR OWN MEMORIES OF THE DESIDERATA OF AN IMPERIAL POWER, PUTTING THEMSELVES IN THE PLACE OF THE RUSSIANS THESE ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT MERE USE OF THE "FACILITIES" OF ADEN FOR THE SOVIET NAVY WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH; THE RUSSIANS, LIKE THE BRITISH BEFORE THEM, WOULD LIKE A SOVEREIGN BASE AREA IN ADEN HARBOR. THE RUSSIANS PRESUMABLY FELT THAT SALIM RUBAYVA ALI'S FACTION WAS LESS APT TO GRANT IT TO THEM THAN THE ISMAIL FACTION, AND THEY THEREFORE BACKED THE LATTER.

5. PDRY STATEMENT POUCHED NEA/ARP.

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